

Serial No. 09/830,029
Art Unit 1731

REMARKS

The instant amendment cancels claims 7 through 12 and 23. Thus, claims 15 through 20 remain pending in the present application upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 through 20 were objected to by the Office Action dated October 20, 2003 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Claims 15 through 20 were also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/807,945.

Applicants' response filed January 7, 2004 re-wrote claim 15 in independent form. In addition, Applicants' response dated August 4, 2004 included a terminal disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c). The Advisory Action dated August 27, 2004 indicates that this terminal disclaimer has been deemed proper and has been recorded.

In light of the above, claims 15 through 20 are believed to be in condition for issuance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

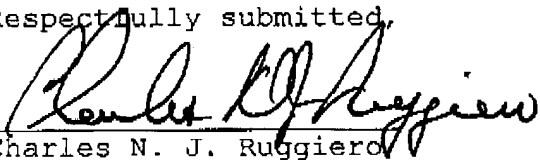
In the alternative, it is believed that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment are respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/830,029
Art Unit 1731

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

October 1, 2004


Charles N. J. Ruggiero
Reg. No. 28,468
Attorney for Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401